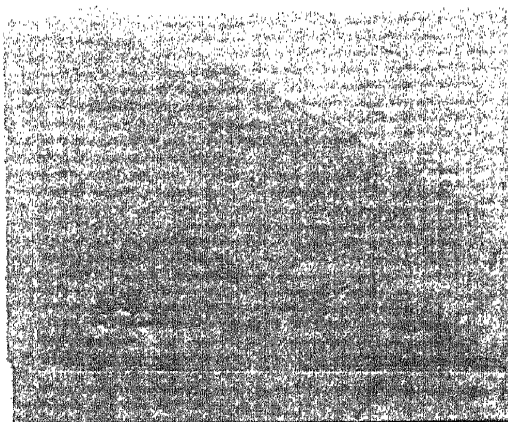


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FORWARD TO READING

BOOK ONE

THE OPEN GATE

BY

P. A. BARONS

Head Master, Woodlands Park Junior School, Tottenham



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FOREWORD

BY

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at the Maudsley Hospital, and at the London Child Guidance Clinic

The invitation to write the Foreword of this series of books comes to me as an honour, particularly appreciated because it demonstrates the close association that exists between Child Guidance Clinics and Schools.

The author and publishers of these books have produced something that was much needed in catering for certain children whose special needs require essential considerations.

Among these requirements are included bold print and clear illustrations, short, expressive sentences, a nice sampling of words varied in form, and certain spatial relationships in paragraphing.

From the start books should be friendly things; reading should be pleasurable. This series of books responds to the child's spontaneous interest in the world of things, animals, and people. Indeed, the correlation which this series has to other subjects in the school curriculum is one of its many good and arresting features.

Nor is the important factor of "doing" ignored.

Provision is made for drawing and creative work, rhymes and jingles, as well as for other activities that maintain the urge to learn.

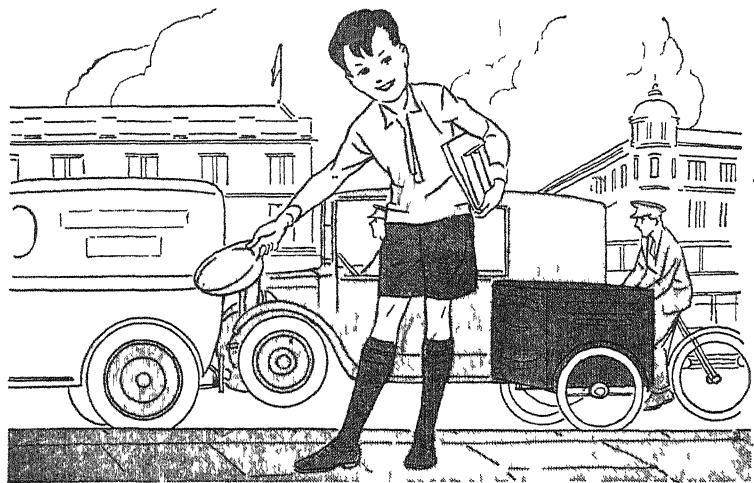
In consideration of "word formations", the visual, auditory, kinæsthetic, and motor approaches so necessary for many children are presented in a manner that is both novel and stimulating.

Underlying all four books is sound psychological treatment which, coupled with matter of intrinsic appeal, could only be produced by one who thoroughly understands the needs of childhood.

In these respects the author succeeds where others so often fail, because he has carefully studied the fundamentals, and has learnt a great deal about learning in his many years of experience with children.

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1—Safety First

“Good-day all! My name is Bill; that is what my friends call me. When I write my full name on my book, I put William Brown. I have one sister. Here she comes along the road. She will talk to you herself.”

“Hello, children! I am called



Nell, but my real name is Ellen. This is my brother Bill. We are now going to school, or we shall be late.”

So here you see the two children on their way.

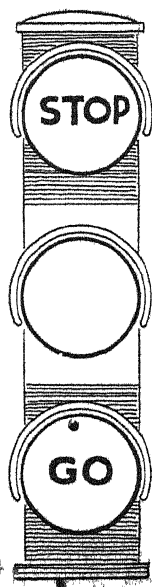
Nell and Bill live in a large town. When they go out in the streets, they have to take great care. Motors, trams, carts, and “bikes” seem to fill the roads.



At one busy spot there is a "bobby". I think you ought now to call him by his right name. You all know it. He is a policeman.

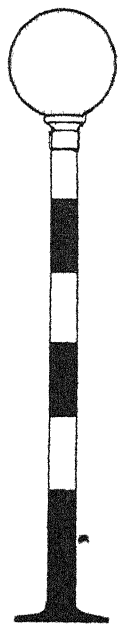
The two children wait for the policeman to hold up the traffic. You know how he stops the cars and horses, I expect. He holds one arm right above his head. That tells all things in front of him to stop. The other arm he puts out sideways. Traffic behind him then comes to a halt.

When this has been done, Nell and Bill cross the road as quickly as they can. But at the end of the next street there are lights, and a big sign on



the pavement. Here the children have to stay until the lights change. A red light means "Stop", and the yellow light means "Look out", or "Caution". But when the green light shows, it means "Go", and the children go across.

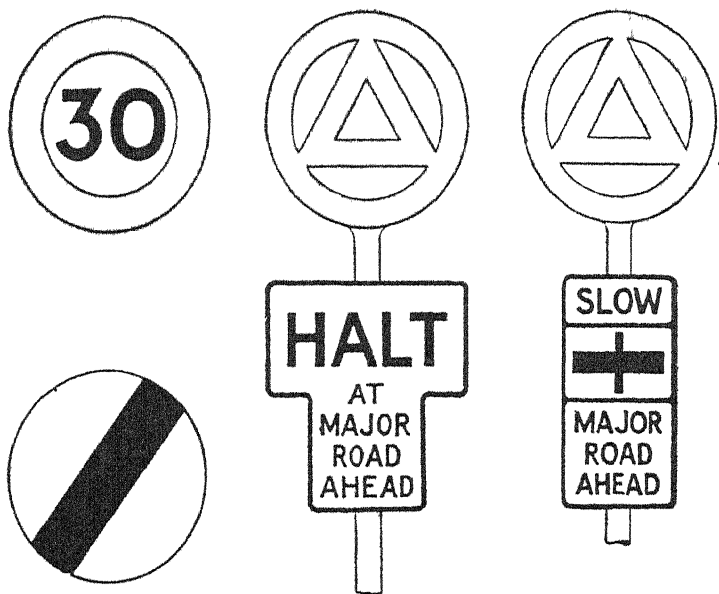
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A "Belisha Beacon"

They cross near the sign which they call their "Big Brother". For short, Bill says "B.B.". Father told them that the letters also refer to "Belisha Beacon". Mr. Belisha first had these signs put up. There are ever so many about, and people wait near them until it is safe to cross the road.

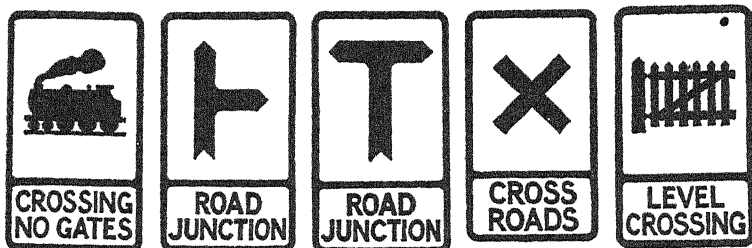
There are all kinds of signs for safety first. How



Do you know what these Signs mean?

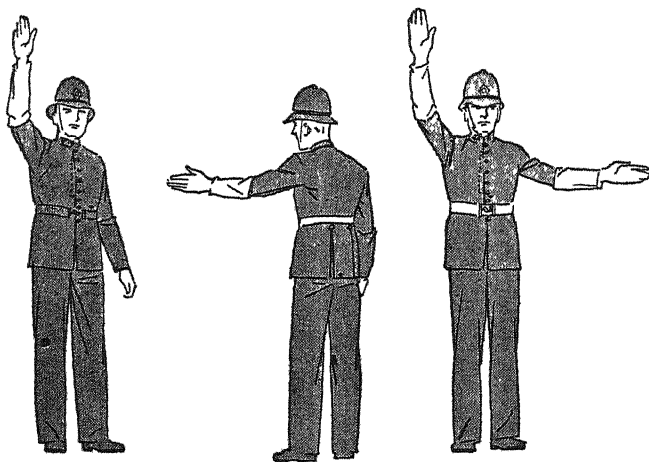
many do you know? I wonder if you have one outside your school. Sometimes, a policeman stands near a school in a busy road. He sees the children across the road safely.

There are many other road-signs about, too. I am sure you must know where some of these are.



A few Road-signs

Look well at the pictures and see if you know what they all mean. You must have sharp eyes to keep safe in these days. Take care never to play or run in the roads.



Say what these Signs mean

Games to Play

(a) **Puzzle.** Put these words in order, to make sense.

1. Brown sister Bill a had.
2. Bill Ellen brother liked her.
3. play road in or the never run.

(b) **Put in the words left out.**

1. Nell and Bill were often seen
Waiting till the light turned —.
2. Red means “ Stop ”, and Green
means “ Go ”,
These are signs you ought to —.
3. Every child who has good sight
Should look left, and then look —.

(c) **Draw.**

1. William and Ellen Brown. Show
them going across the road past the
policeman.
2. All the signs you know. Write the
name under each.



2—Your Dog

Perhaps you have a dog at home. If so, I know you must like it. Dogs make fine pets. But if you want your dog to be well, you must take care of it.

The dog has come down to us from the wolf. Many, many years ago, when the wolf lived, it went about with others in a pack. It had to obey and do as all the pack did.

So your dog, too, likes to obey, and if you try you can train it to do so.

Some dogs have loud barks. That is the dog's call. When the wolf is wild, it uses its howl to call the others. When your dog barks, other dogs that hear it bark as well. It seems to wake them all.

Have you ever seen a pack of hounds going to hunt? They call to themselves. At night and morning, when the hounds get fed, they call or "bay". This "baying" can be heard for miles.

At one time the call of the dog made others come to join in the hunt. At heart a dog is a hunter. It can go on and on for miles and miles, and does not seem to tire very much.

Now and again, a bad dog goes out to hunt or kill. A big dog may even kill sheep. And it does not kill just one, it kills many sheep. That is what a wolf does. A wolf kills several, not for itself alone, but for the others of its pack. Your dog is not a bad dog like that, I am sure.

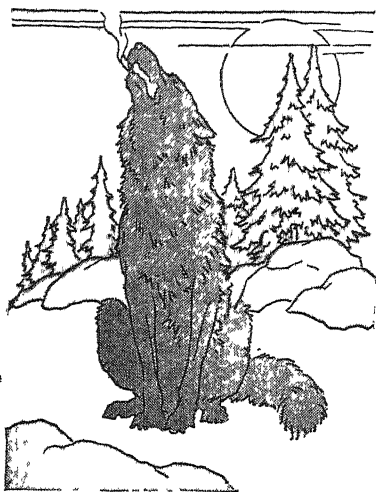
There are many kinds of dogs. Most of them are small and stay in the house a good deal. Perhaps you keep your dog indoors at night. You find it is able to look after the house. But if it is kept outdoors, be sure that its kennel is warm and cosy. If it sleeps indoors, a basket will do for it.

One thing all dogs like is water. Always be sure to have a bowl of

clean water where your pet can get it. To be quite well, a dog should often go out for a walk, or run. If you go out, take your dog with you. It always pays to keep a dog clean, and make its coat shine. A brush will clean its coat quite well.

The food for a dog needs some care, too. Meals should be given at the same time each day; no matter if the dog has one or two meals. The animal does not need to eat scraps at any odd times.

But even with all the care given them, some dogs get ill. If your dog is ill, you may have to call in the Animals' Doctor. There are doctors for sick animals as well as doctors for sick people. Some big towns have places where sick animals



A Wolf

of poor people may be treated. The workers at these places do ever such good work.

You must not forget to look after your dog. A healthy dog that does what

it is told, is a great friend to you. He will pay back all your care by being your friend for always.

Games to Play

(a) **Puzzle.** Put these words in order, to make sense.

1. the wolf from came the dog.

2. sheep dog may a kill bad.
3. pays a dog clean keep to it.

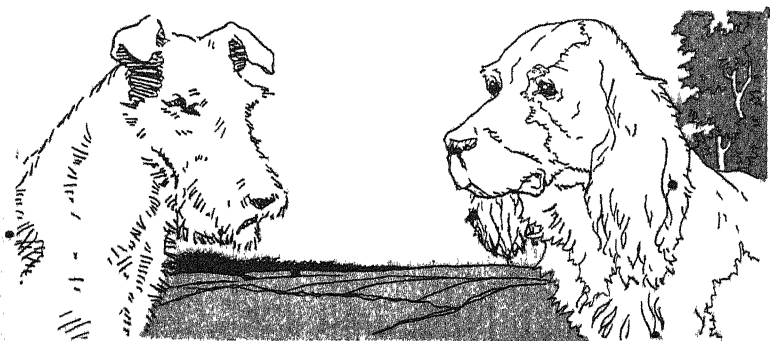
(b) Put in the words left out.

1. If about your dog you think
Leave clean water for his —.
2. A healthy dog that's full of fun,
Should often go out for a —.
3. When all dogs bark loud and long —
You may know that something's —.

(c) Draw.

1. Your dog.
2. The dog you would like.

(d) Write. The names of all the dogs
you know.



3—St. Swithun's Day

St. Swithun was a very, very good Bishop. Over a thousand years ago he was Bishop of Winchester. He was very kind too. When he gave a feast, he did not ask the rich people. Instead, the poor ones were told to come.

The Bishop did many good deeds. He built many churches and made the old ones safe. If he wished to go anywhere, he would walk. As he was such a good man he was liked by all. He died on the 2nd July, 862, and was buried in a spot outside his church. That was done by his own orders.

There is a story about what the

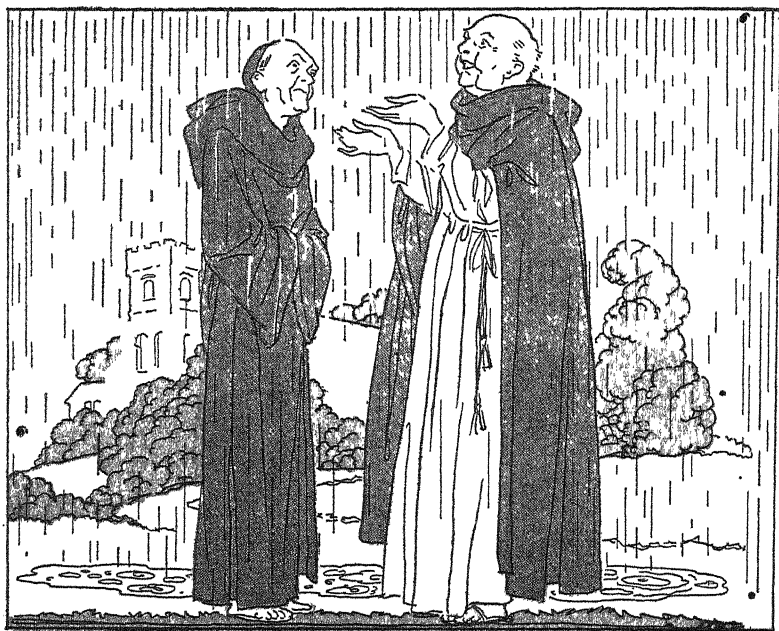
monks did over a hundred years after. The fame of St. Swithun had gone so far and wide, that the monks thought the Bishop should be buried in the church. So on the 15th July, 971, they went out to move his body. And then it rained and rained and rained. It seemed as if the skies would not stop crying over what the monks did. And now people say:

“ St. Swithun’s Day, if thou dost
rain,

For forty days it will remain. ,
St. Swithun’s Day, if thou be
fair,

For forty days, ’twill rain na
mair.”

That means to say that if it rains



“ It rained and rained and rained ”

on the 15th July, it will rain for forty days. If it is fine on that day, the next forty days will be fine. That is what some people say.

You know that apples grow on trees in orchards. If rain falls on St. Swithun's day, the apples are said to be “ christened ”. So there

is another old saying:

“ If it rains on St. Swithun’s,
The apples be christened.”

At this time of the year it is too early for most of the apples to be ripe. But if rain falls on the early kinds of apples, on St. Swithun’s day, people say they can then be picked and are fit for use.

Now try to find the town of Winchester on the map. It is in the south of England. Find just where it stands. It is a very, very old city. At one time it was the chief town in the whole country. That was before London was made the chief city.

At one time kings lived at Winchester. King William II

(William the Red) was buried there. He met a very strange death. One day he was hunting in a big forest—the New Forest. He and a knight were trying to shoot deer. The King called out to his friend to shoot at a deer that was seen. The arrow struck a big tree, flew off, and hit the King. He fell dead.

The knight was so afraid that he ran away at once. King William's body stayed in the Forest till a poor man came along with his horse and cart. He put the body on his cart and took it to the chief city, Winchester, which was not many miles away. The King was taken to the big church, or cathedral.

William had not been a very good King; not many people liked him.

But he was a King and he had to be buried in the proper way. So in the ground in the cathedral tower the King was buried. The next year, 1101, the tower fell down.

So now you know two stories about Winchester, our chief old town of England.

Games to Play

(a) **Ruzzle.** Put these words in order, to make sense.

1. Bishop a was good very St. Swithun.
2. orchards in grow apples.
3. forest big in a was killed King William.

(b) **Put in the words left out.**

1. St. Swithun was loved by all in need,
The hungry poor he would help
and —.

2. If St. Swithun's Day be wet,
Much more rain we still may —.
3. When St. Swithun's Day is fine,
Longer may the sun still —.

(c) Draw.

1. A monk of St. Swithun's time.
2. King William II in the New Forest.



Winchester Cathedral as it is to-day

4—A Lump of Coal

You have all seen a lump of coal, I am sure. Mother uses it at home, of course. This solid, black lump was dug out of the earth. It is made from big ferns, plants called horse-tails, and other plants like these, that grew years and years ago.

If coal is put on the fire, it soon burns. It gives us heat and light. In an open fire about three-quarters of the heat is lost.

Heat, smoke, soot, and gas come from coal when it burns. Most of these go up the chimney. They go up and up and join the clouds. If they join a mist near the ground, we have a fog. Every year, big

towns like London have many fogs.

Thousands of tons of coal are used in houses each year. About one-tenth of all that is burnt is lost in smoke and soot. The air gets impure, and the rays of the sun cannot get through this blanket of smoke. Soot and acid in the air also do damage to buildings. The stonework begins to wear away.

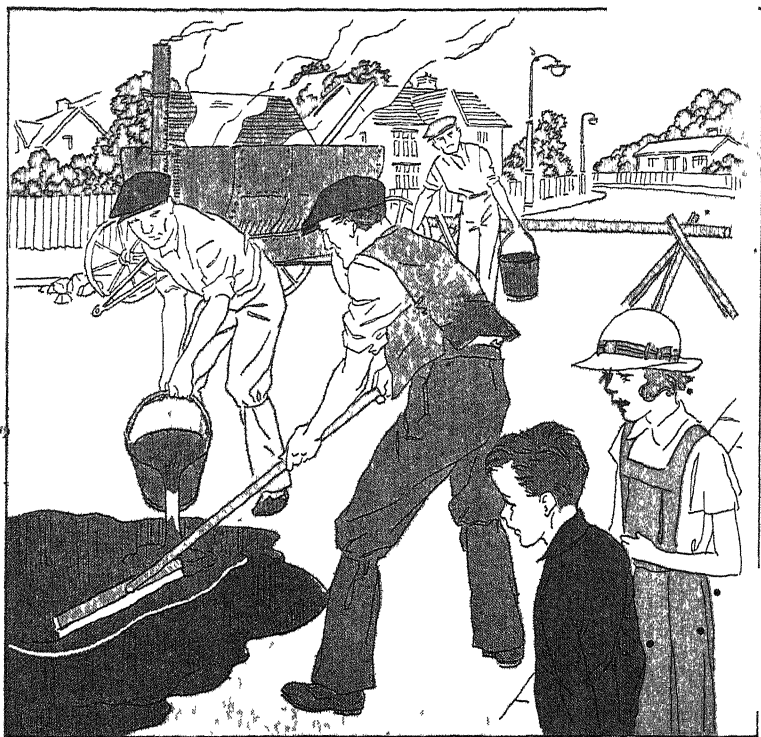
But at some time the soot in the air has to come down. More often than not it comes down with the rain. Mother does not like it to rain on her washing day. The sooty rain makes her clothes dirty.

Now why do we burn coal if it does all these nasty things? Well, coal is fairly cheap to buy, it lights well, and it can be got easily. To

be fair to our friend a lump of coal, we must hear the good it does.

We get heaps and heaps of things from coal. The chief ones are coke, gas, tar, dyes, scents, and chemicals. Coke is used chiefly to heat water in boilers; gas is used for light and heat. The tar used on roads also comes from coal. By using tar, the dust is kept down, and roads are made safer for cars.

The black stuff on the battery of a lamp or a wireless set we call "pitch". Pitch comes from tar, too. To keep out damp and rot from wood, a brown stuff called "creosote" is used. That is got from coal. Many colours or dyes are made from coal. Men still work to find out new colours.



Tarring a Road

Of course, you know what scent is. Well, many kinds of scents come from things out of coal. Have you ever seen the word “Benzole”? Think of the place where petrol for cars is sold. “Benzole”,

which comes from coal, is often mixed with other motor spirit. A motor will soon start if Benzole is used.

When plants grow, they take "goodness" out of the soil. The soil must have "goodness" put back, or other plants will not do well. To do this, chemicals are used. One of these, got from coal, looks just like dirty salt. But it is very good for plants and things that grow. It has a long name; perhaps you can find out what it is.

If you were told all the things we get from coal you would be surprised. As well as many other things, pencils, baking powder, aspirin, and lysol can even be made from coal. Coal is one of the most

useful things we have. It would be hard to do without it, wouldn't it?

Games to Play

(a) **Puzzle.** Put these words in order, to make sense.

1. coke us gas gives and coal.
2. is coke heat to water used.
3. tar keep to down the dust helps

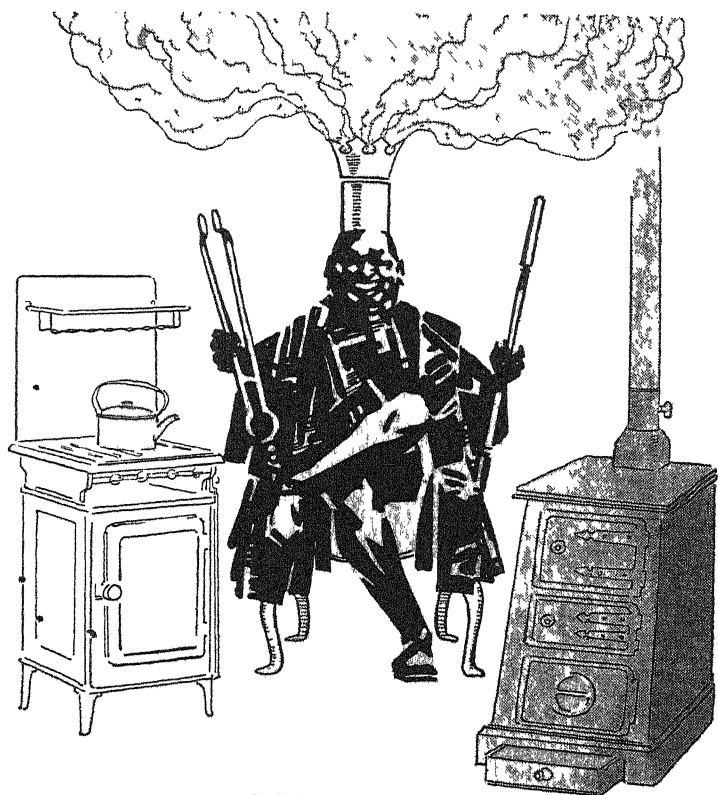
(b) **Put in the words left out.**

1. It boils and bakes and cooks and —,
This coal which gives us scents and dyes.
2. From coal we get gas, tar, and —,
While up the chimney goes the smoke.

(c) **Say the rhyme of " Old King Cole "**

Now read this:

Old King Coal
Is a solid old soul,



“Old King Coal”

But a useful old soul is he,
He sells us his coke
And he sells us his gas
But he gives us his smoke all free.

Now write this out, but put in some of
your own words instead.

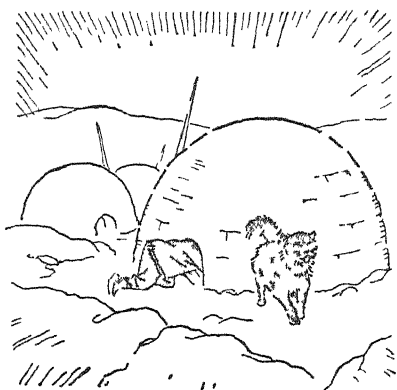
5—Some Houses of the World

We all like our homes; we could not do without them. In winter they keep us warm, in summer they make us cool. When we are at home, we feel safe. The wind and rain are shut out.

Many years ago, people lived in caves or in mud huts. They were the best houses they had. To-day, our homes are safe and strong.

If we went round the world, the houses would surprise us. Men build houses with things that grow, or are found near at hand. They also plan their homes to fit the weather they have.

In the icy cold of the North, the Eskimos live. They are short folk, with dark skins and black hair. Very little grows in their



Eskimo House or "Igloo"

land. It is covered by ice and snow. So from ice they build their huts, or igloos. These look like beehives and are very strong. If a bear climbs on top, the hut will not even break. That shows how strong it is.

Little can be found in the desert. Nothing but sand, and more sand. The desert folk use tents to live in. These are made of skins. From



A Tent of the Desert Folk

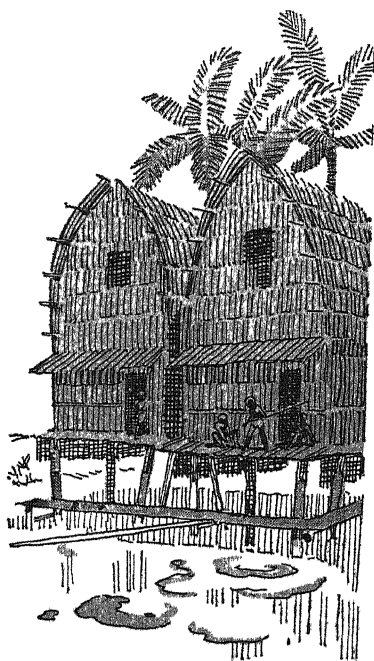
place to place these people go. to get water and find food. Here and there, a few wells are found. Then the desert grows date-palms and a little green stuff. This spot is called an oasis.

At an oasis, the men who come with their camels, donkeys, or goats, have to buy their water. It is not free.. Now and then, there are mud

or clay houses in an oasis. Water and earth are mixed, and the mud bricks bake in the sun.

Hot, wet forests make people ill. They do not like to live there, but on the edges of them. But forests in cold lands, like Canada, give work for many men. Log cabins are built, to live in. These wood houses must have very steep roofs. If they did not, the snow would not slide off.

In some wet parts of the world, people



Houses that are safe from floods

live in huts on poles. In their high houses, they are out of harm's way.

Houses of stone are of no use when an earth-quake comes. The shake would make them fall. Japan has very many earth-quakes in a year. All are not bad ones, but many are.

The houses there are made of bamboo, and the walls of paper. Inside, the rooms are made of screens of light wood and rice-paper. These houses are safe, and will not fall unless there is a very bad shake.

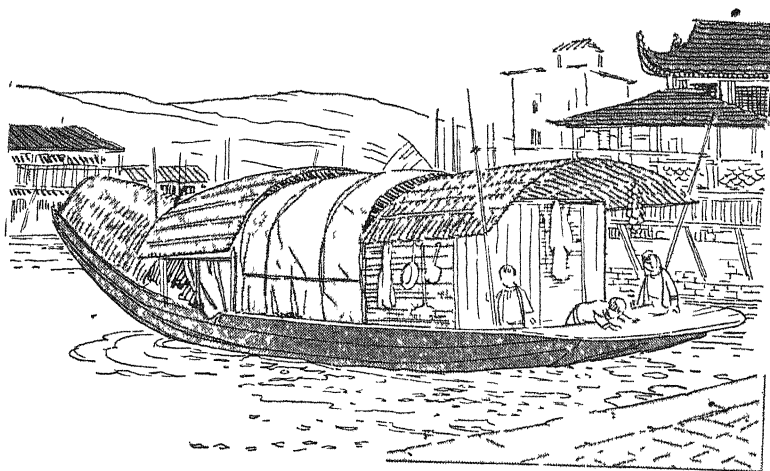
There are so many people in China that some live in boats on rivers. These boats act as their houses.

Where there is little rain, as in

Egypt, houses have flat roofs. A roof takes off the rain or snow. The farther north you go, the steeper are the roofs. That is because more snow falls in the north.

In our land, too, people build houses with things they can get. If stone can be had easily, houses will be of stone. Years ago, when straw was cheap, roofs were made of straw. This is called thatch. But now, straw is dear. So houses have tiles, or slates, for roofs. Besides, a straw roof does not last nearly so long. It is always dearer in the long run.

We do not build many houses only of wood. Now and then, near a forest you may see a wooden house. Brick houses are most



Many Folk in China live in Boats

common. In big, big buildings; much steel is used. I expect you have seen the steel frame of a huge place. That makes it very strong.

So, you see, the houses of the world are full of interest. If you see a picture of a house, look well at it. You should now be able to say if it is built in a cold or a hot-land, a wet or a dry land.

Games to Play

A. Words are left out below. Put the words shown in their right places.

1. Houses keep us — in —, and cool in — (summer, winter, warm)

2. The — folk live in — made of — (skins, tents, desert).

3. Some — in Japan are made of — and — paper (bamboo, houses, rice).

B. Words are left out below. They are all here. Read them and put them in their right places.

(cupboard, wish, clock, cat, house, corner, room, birch.)

I wish, how I — that I had a little —,
With a mat for the — and a holey for a mouse,

And a — going “tock” in a — of the —,
And a kettle, and a —, and a big — broom.

6—What do you know about Elephants?

If you were asked where elephants lived, you might say, "Elephants live in Africa and India." That is quite true. But you do not know where elephants go to die. No-one knows that. It is one of the strange facts about these big beasts. There are many tales about them, too.

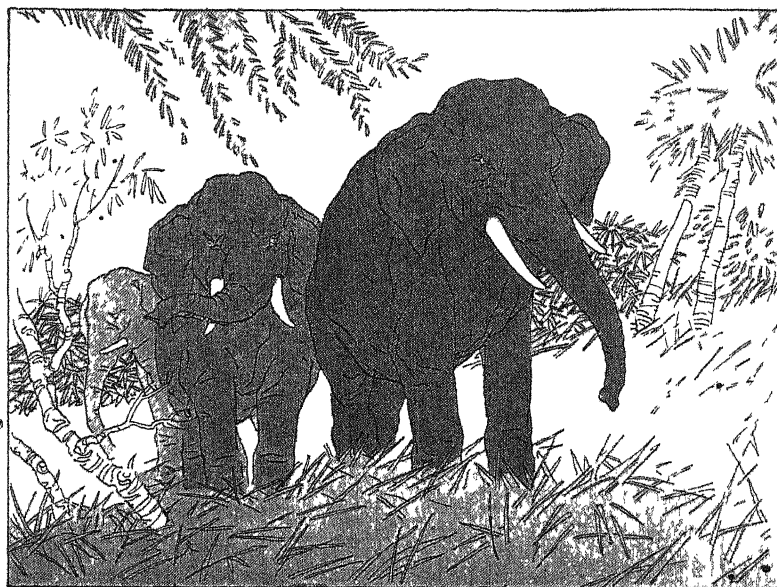
Some elephants are so strong that they can even pull up trees with their big trunks. Others can be made so tame, that they look after babies. They act just like nurses.

The home of the animal is in woods near the hills. For many

years men have killed these beasts for their tusks. So many elephants have been shot that now they are scarce. To buy a big one would cost £100 or more. That would be an elephant from Africa. African elephants are bigger than the ones that live in India.

An elephant might be 10 feet tall, and weigh over 5 tons. Some of them live to be well over 100 years old. Many men go out to catch elephants. When a herd is seen, the hunters make loud noises. They drive the beasts on and on, to a big closed-in place. This has been made ready before the hunt starts, of course.

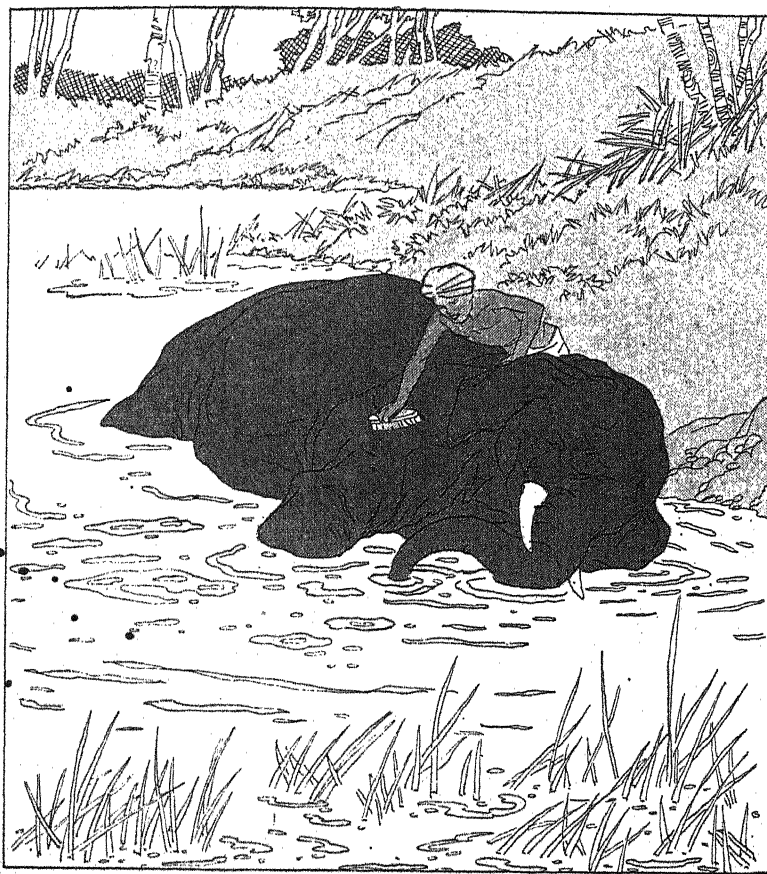
Once inside, the elephants cannot get out. Tame ones put there,



Wild Elephants

soon make the wild ones seem at ease. Men creep up to the new elephants and tie them to trees.

Great care must be taken in this work. It is lucky the elephant has not very good eyes. But it has sharp ears and a keen sense of smell. Little by little, the elephants that are taken make friends. They are



Making "Jumbo" clean

given nice food to eat. Soon, most of them are tame.

When they can obey, they are made to do all sorts of useful work.

Years ago, they had to fight in battle. With big metal plates on them, they would rush at the walls of a city. They even fought our soldiers under Robert Clive. One day you may hear the story of our great leader and his fights in India.

To clear the way in big forests, men use these big animals. And to load ships with timber, they are also very useful. When he goes to shoot a tiger, a hunter rides on an elephant. The beast can force its way through the thick jungle.

The trunk is the most useful part of the animal. It can do hard work, or even pick up things as small as pins. The elephant holds up its trunk to give a cry, or to smell when foes are near. The

trunk also sends out a shower when the elephant washes itself.

The big tusks of ivory are often nearly 10 feet long. They may weigh over half a ton. Of course, they are worth a great deal of money. Have you ever had a ride on an elephant in the Zoo or Circus? Perhaps you have seen how gently it walks along. The money you pay for a ride helps to buy its food. As it is such a big beast, the elephant must have big meals. It likes rice, hay, corn, and sweet things. But it also has much green stuff. About 200 pounds of green food a day is what it likes. That seems a great deal, but think what a big animal it is. Such a great body needs much food to keep it well.

Games to Play

A. Put these words in their right places.

1. (Africa, Elephants, India.) — live
in — and —.

2. (old, Some, more, live.) — ele-
phants — to be — than 100 years —.

3. (sometimes, tusks, long.) The big
— of ivory are — 10 feet —.

B. Look at these words (I, very, snail,
elephant, tall, me, think): One
of these words has to fill each
space below. Write out the verse
and put in the right word.

The — is — large,

And — am very small;

The — might say as much to —,

He'd — me very —.

7—Friend or Foe?

Of course, you all know what a rabbit is. Perhaps you have a tame one at home. Wild rabbits are very common. They live in holes in the ground. These they scrape out with their fore legs. They kick away the stones with their hind legs.

You have seen, no doubt, that the hind legs are longer than the fore legs. They help the rabbit to run very fast when it is afraid. They let it kick hard too, if a stoat comes along.

Rabbits like to live close together in their holes. A bank is often full of such holes.



Rabbits near their Home

The mother rabbit has three or four sets of young ones a year. She may even have eight at once. As so many are born, they need much food. They will eat nearly every kind of crop there is.

Young trees often have their bark eaten by rabbits. Their teeth, in fact, must be used or they grow

too long. Sometimes, a rabbit loses a tooth. Then the tooth opposite the empty space begins to grow and grow. At last, it becomes quite a tusk. Then the animal cannot eat, and dies for want of food. This does not often happen.

Rabbits do great damage to the crops of the farmer. He has to shoot or trap them, or else he hires a man to do this for him. Even then the farmers cannot get rid of the animals fast enough.

Rabbits have many enemies. Foxes, stoats,



This is a Stoat. It is a cousin of the Weasel. Both kill Rabbits.

weasels, and owls go after them, and kill them.

An old rabbit often acts as sentry over the warren. He hits the ground hard with his hind feet. This warns the other rabbits, and off they run to their holes. The baby rabbits see their mother's white tail bobbing up and down. So they follow it. At least, some folk say they do.

In Australia, rabbits are a very great pest. Men try hard to keep them down, or they would soon swarm all over the land. All sorts of things have been tried to get rid of them. None has been a real success. Though thousands are killed and sold every year, they still increase.

Their skins are used for some

kinds of fur coats. They go under the name of "coney". A coney is the old name for a rabbit.

So our "bunny" is both a friend and a foe. Some people like it, others dislike it. I wonder what you think about it.

Games to Play

A. From the letters of the word "thousands" write as many words as you can (so, dust, sand, etc.).

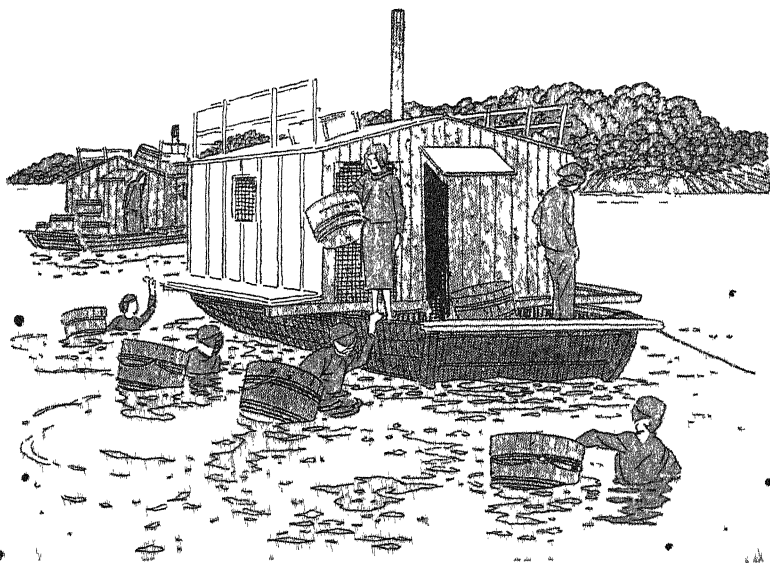
B. Fill in the spaces with words, to make good sense. Write out the whole.

The — legs of the rabbit are longer than its — ones.

The rabbit scrapes away — with its fore legs.

Some fur coats are made from — —.

C. Draw a rabbit.



Girl Divers of Japan ("Amahs") with their Tubs. They have to get the young Oysters or "Spats"

8—Girls who Dive for Pearls

You must all know what pearls look like. They can often be seen in shops. Some pearls are "real", but most of them are "made". We call these "cultured" pearls.

For thousands of years, the real pearl has been known. It is even spoken about in the Bible. Pearls come from oysters that live in the sea. Hundreds of years ago, the Chinese found out how to make things look "pearly". They put little bits of wood or metal in the oysters. Later on, they found these bits were hidden under a coat of pearl. Since then, this "trick" has been done.

But when we talk of pearls, we mean those that are nice and round. Pearls and chalk are made of the same thing. It is lime that makes them both.

Sometimes, a grain of sand gets inside an oyster shell. Or, maybe, a little piece of shell, or even a

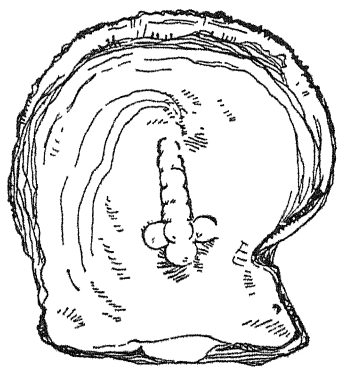
small worm finds its way in. The oyster does not like this in its shell. It worries the oyster. To stop this, the oyster makes a fluid, which later on sets hard. This covers up the sand, shell, or worm, and makes a pearl. This is the "real" pearl.

• It takes some years, of course, for the pearl to form. In some seas, divers go down to get oysters. They open all of them to look for pearls. Sometimes hundreds are opened, and not even one pearl is found. That is why pearls are so dear.

• But the pearls that make up most rings, brooches, tie-pins, and ear-rings are "made" pearls. The people of Japan work at these "made" pearls. The girls who dive for

pearls are called "amahs". Before they dive from their boat, they put on masks. They have to carry big tubs to get the small oysters. The oysters are found at the bottom of the sea, when it is not very deep. The baby oysters are called "spats".

When a number of these young oysters have been found, they are put back in the sea in an iron cage, so that they will not be lost. They stay in the sea till they grow big. Again they are taken out. This time, little bits of shell are put inside the oysters.



These Pearls in the shape of a Cross were found on a beach in Australia in 1874.

Back into the

sea they go again. There they stay for three or four years. The next time they are taken out, pearls are found round the little bits of shell.

Not all the pearls can be used. Some are of bad shape. Pearls have to be alike in size and colour, to make a good necklace. A necklace of "made" pearls can be bought for a £1 or so. A real pearl necklace may cost a hundred times as much.

The trade of using these "made" pearls has not been long in our country. Now and then, some pearls are quite big. Some of them weigh a great deal. In one London museum is a pearl that weighs 3 ounces.

Many years ago, a black man of Australia found on the shore some pearls in the shape of a cross. He

did not know what they were worth, so he gave them away for a little tobacco. Much later on, the same pearls were sold for many thousands of pounds.

There are many stories about pearls. I wonder if you have ever heard of Queen Cleopatra. She

had a wager or bet, that one meal would cost her more than a certain sum of money. And it did, too. But do you know why it cost so much? She took her very costly



Cleopatra

pearl from her ear. Then she put it in vinegar. This made it dissolve, like sugar in tea. She then drank the vinegar. So, you see, the meal did cost her a lot of money. And she won her wager, too.

Games to Play

A. Make as many words as you can from the letters of the word "Cleopatra" (cap, coat, etc.).

B. Fill in the spaces with words, to make sense.

— are found in oysters.

The people of — cause oysters to make pearls.

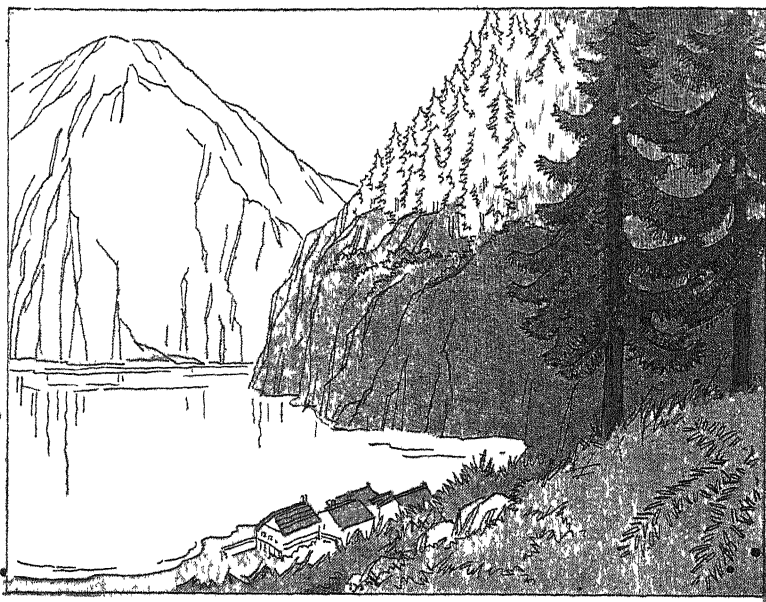
Pearls worn round the neck are called a —.

9—A Christmas Tree

Most children like to have a Christmas Tree. They load it with toys, candles, and bright balls. When it is ready, the green tree makes a very pretty sight.

At Christmas every year, ever so many of these trees are sold. People often buy a small one and put it in a tub. More often than not, this tree is only the end of a branch, or part of a big tree. Usually these are the trees that come to us from other lands. Our own trees often have roots when we buy them.

The tree has sharp leaves just like green needles. This tells us that it comes from a land which is



The Home of the Spruce

cold. Firs and pines have these needle leaves also. They let the snow slip off easily.

The Christmas Tree is nearly always a spruce. That is its real name. Many of the trees grow in our country. Thousands, however, come in by ship at Christmas to be

sold. They come from lands in the North. Weeks before Christmas comes, all the fruit shops get busy. They lay in their stocks of Christmas Trees.

If the spruce grows big, it makes a useful tree. Often it grows to more than 100 feet, but not always does it grow so tall. Winds sometimes blow it down. Its roots grow near the top of the soil, and it cannot get a very firm hold. That is because its home is on the sides of hills. There the soil is not very deep. It can grow high up on hills. Sometimes it is seen over a mile above the level of the sea.

Canada uses spruce to make wood pulp. This is used for making paper. But the tall trees are not

used for pulp. They are good for timber, or for those big poles you see builders use. The tall trees are often very straight. They make good masts for small ships. But even then, they sometimes snap off.

The wood of the spruce is called "white deal". No doubt you have seen some of this white wood. It is very common. It is soft enough for men to cut and work. At the same time, it lasts quite well.

Now and then, on a hillside, you may see many of these small Christmas Trees growing.

The tree has flowers and catkins. Its cones, when they form, hang down. Big Christmas Trees, or spruce, are often found near big towns. In spite of the smoky air,



A Merry Christmas!

they seem to be able to thrive.

When you have done with your Christmas Tree, plant it in your garden—that is, if it has any roots. Dig a big hole, and spread out the roots well. For a few years the tree will not grow very much. P . . .

it does get a good start, it may grow as much as 2 feet a year.

Games to Play

A. Write down as many words as you can make from the letters of the word "Christmas" (mat, cast, rim, etc.).

B. Write this out with the right word in each case:

The Christmas { Pudding
Tree is usually a { Holly.
Stocking { Poplar.
Spruce

The { leaves
branches of the Christmas Tree
are { big like { needles
small { pins

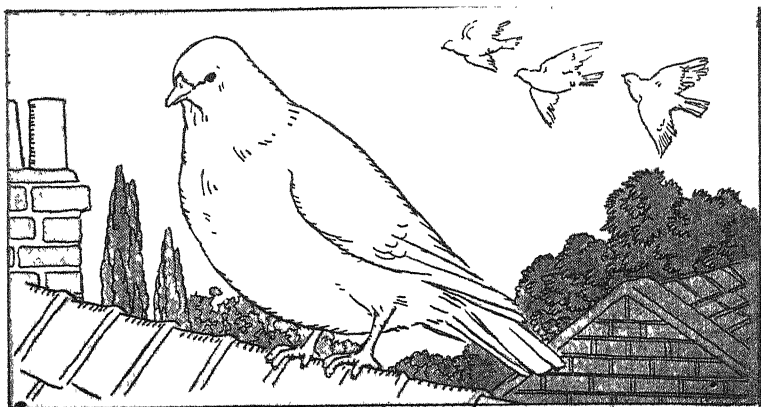
C. Draw a Christmas Tree, all dressed up.



10—Finding the Way Home

Once upon a time, a cat was taken 250 miles from Devon to Kent. It went by train and had never been to its new home before. Days and days after, the cat found its way back to its home in Devon. The poor thing was very weak and ill. The walk had been too much for it.

That is only one story about the strange sense animals have. They cannot ask their way, as you can. It does not matter to them how far they are away from home. If they want to get back, they start off. On and on they go, sometimes for days. Some never reach home; they die on the way.



A Rock Pigeon

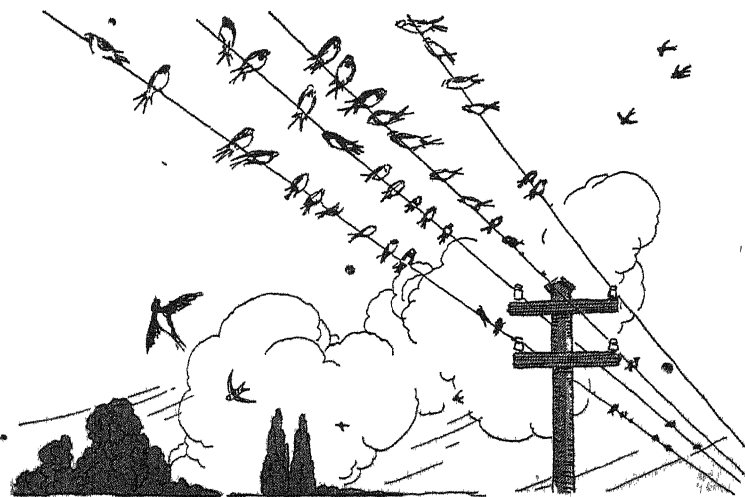
The tame pigeon has this sense to find its way back home. We call it a “homer” or racing pigeon. It came from the rock pigeon, a picture of which is shown here.

Have you ever seen a pigeon let out of a basket? It flies round and round for a while. It seems to be using its sense to find its way home.

Pigeons are put in races to find those that get home first. Even if they are sent across the sea, they

find their way back. If they have to fly as far as 400 miles, back they come. At least, most of them do. A few never do so. A storm may tire them out, or hawks may kill them. Pigeons fly about 40 miles an hour. That is about as fast as a train goes.

When these birds are so far away from home, how is it that they



Swallows getting ready to leave

know their way back? They cannot see their way. It must be a sense, or what we call instinct, that helps them.

It is not only birds that have this instinct. Dogs and cats often get back to their old homes. Cows have been known to do this, and insects and even slugs as well.

. The bee, when it is after nectar, goes a long way from its hive. It may be even two miles away. But when it is ready to go back, off it starts for home. It flies in a straight line. We call it a "bee-line". So a bee-line really means the direct way.

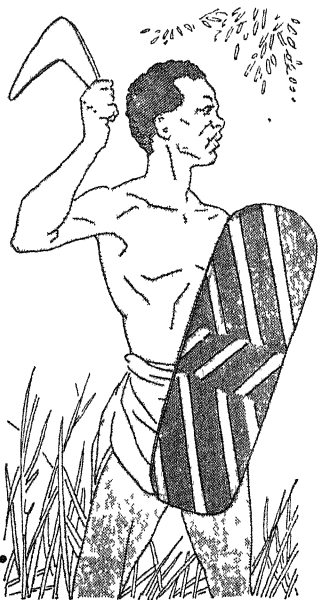
Men have often tried to find out about this instinct of bees. Bees have been taken away from their

hive. While they were away, the hive has been moved to a new spot. But in a short time, the bees have come back to their old hive again.

Swallows too, at the end of the year, start off on their flight to warm lands. Young birds that have been born here often lead the flight. They must have an instinct which tells them how to go south to sunny lands.

Would you think that shell-fish can find their way home? Yes, they can. Of course, it takes them a long time to crawl a few miles. At least, it does a crab.

Certain people have this sense of finding their way home. The wild black men of Australia have it. Perhaps you know that these folk



Australian Native Boy about
to throw a Boomerang

make a weapon called a boomerang. Some parts of their country have miles and miles of sandy waste land.

Yet right across such places these wild folk find their way. For miles and miles they plod on and never seem to tire. Yet they cannot even read or write; indeed, for some things, they have very poor brains. A white man would soon lose his way. He would die for want of food and water. But the black man finds his way and lives. So, you see, this instinct of animals,

birds, insects, fish, and the black men is very, very useful.

Games to Play

A. Only one of the words at the end of each line suits. Read the verse first. Think which word fits in best. Then write out the whole verse with the right words put in.

The — is coming,
(morning, evening, night)

The — sinks to rest;
(stars, moon, sun)

The rooks are all —
(crying, flying, sighing)

Straight home to the —.

(west, rest, nest)

“ — ! ” says the rook, as he flies overhead;
(Tweet, Caw, Cuckoo)

“ It’s time little people were going to — ! ”
(sleep, bed, supper)

11—Bread from the Wind

Boys and girls often see the need for some things but not for others. If we have no rain for a long time, the grass gets brown and dies. Plants curl up. Things that should be green look half dead. But when rain comes, grass and plants soon get green again. They stand up and look fresh. It is easy to see what good the rain does.

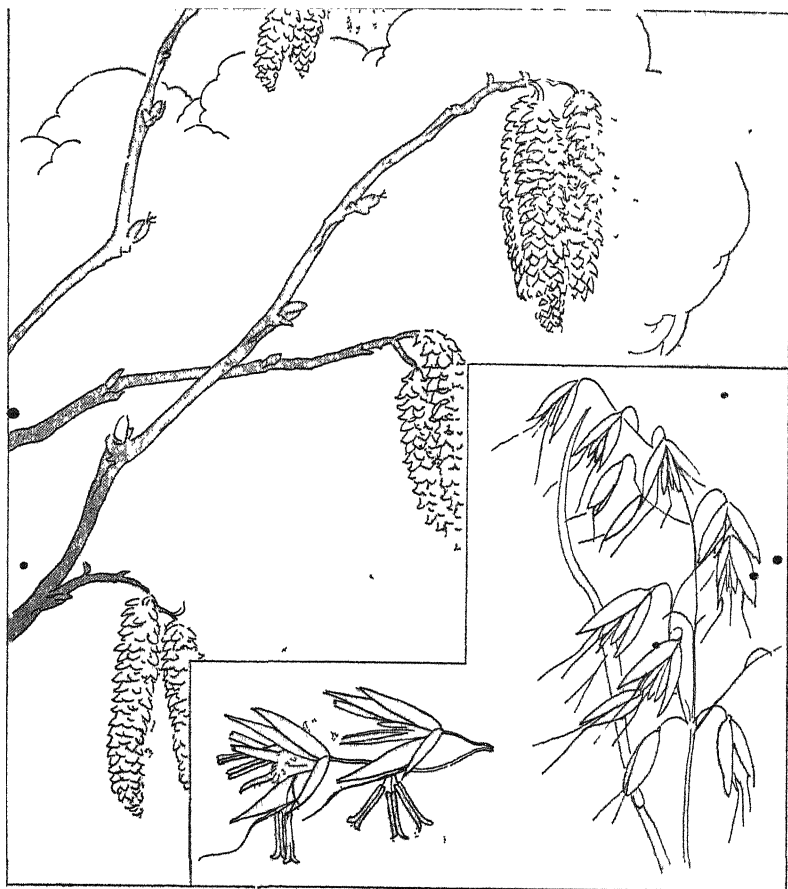
But do we know what good work the wind does? Sometimes, it blows us along, or dashes the rain in our faces. Even our umbrellas may be blown inside out. Then perhaps we think, "Oh! bother the

wind." Yet, if we had no wind, we could not even live. Let us think why that is.

In the world there are two sorts of people—boys and girls, and, of course, men and women. Other names for these are males and females. Plants and flowers, also, are often males or females. Before a seed or fruit can be made, dust called pollen has to be taken from the male to the female flower.

Insects often do this work. Bees, as a reward, get nectar and pollen from the flowers. Flowers often show gay colours, so that they can be seen easily by insects. Sometimes, they give off scents as well.

Some things that grow have not these helps. They may not



Note how the Pollen goes from Catkins and Grasses

•
 have any scent, or nectar, or any
 bright colour. Insects do not visit
 such .plants. Only the wind can
 .

•
help these. It does so by blowing the pollen to them.

In Spring, some trees have flowers before the leaves come. If the leaves came first, they would get in the way of the pollen which the wind blows about. So to help the tree, the flowers grow first.

Without the wind, we should find no acorns on the oak. Nor would the beech give any beech nuts or mast. Other trees, too, would not have seeds if they had not the wind's help.

Many plants need the wind's aid. You know what a stinging nettle is, I am sure. Perhaps one has even stung you before now. If you look at its flowers, you will see why this nettle needs the wind.

In the Easter Holidays, children often go out to pick palm, or even Lambs' Tails (Hazel Catkins). Palm grows on trees that belong to the willow family. Catkins are seen on nut bushes. In both cases, the wind blows the pollen from flower to flower.

All kinds of grasses would be useless if the wind did not blow..

Just think of all the wheat we want to make bread for us. If the wind did not take the pollen from stalk to stalk, there would be very little wheat. Insects would only be able to do a very little of the work. In fact, we rely on the wind to give us our bread. Animals, too, would have very little food. Horses would have no oats. In a very short

while, the grain crops would die out.

So the next time we feel a bit cross with the wind, we must think of all the good work it does. Then we shall not say even one unkind thing about it.

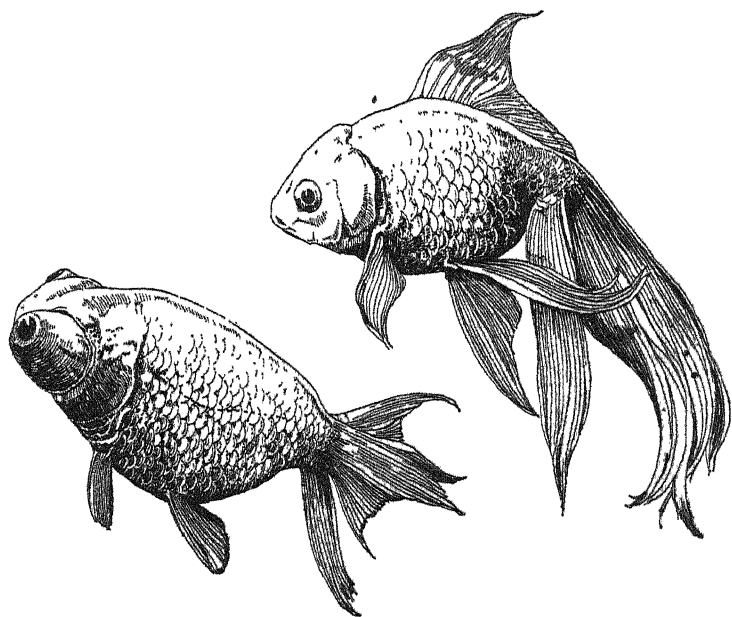
Games to Play

A. Say these words:

{grow	{feet	{walk
{know	{street	{stalk

Each pair of words sounds the same, or rhymes. Now read the part of the story that your teacher tells you to read. Pick out words from it. Write others that rhyme with them. Put them down in pairs. See how many you can pair in this way.

B. Draw something made from wheat,
Which you would like to eat.



Two kinds of Goldfish

12—Goldfish that Die

Most boys and girls like to look at goldfish. They look so bright in their gold scales. Perhaps you have had a goldfish, and it has died. Children often go to a shop, buy a goldfish, and put it in a glass

globe. Soon the poor fish dies. Of course it does. But read how to keep your fish alive.

Now a goldfish, like other fish, has no eyelids. The light that comes through the sides of the globe, or tank, harms fish. The globe really causes more light. Fish in rivers and seas have the light only from above. So if your bowl or tank is too near the light, you must shade it. Put up some cardboard to keep out the light. Better still, place the bowl in a shady spot.

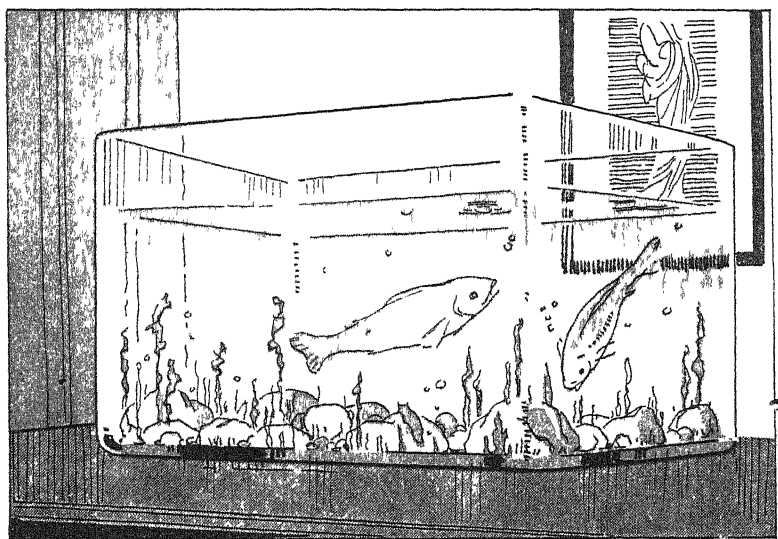
The more water you can have for your fish, the better. A big tank is good. If you can have $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of water for each small fish, do so.

Now fish need air. They get

it out of the water. When you look at a fish, you will see its mouth open and close. It is taking air from the water and passing the used water out over its gills. In time, all the air in the water will be used up. So unless you change the water often, the fish will die. There will not be any air left in the old water.

The new water must be as warm as the old. If you can get rain-water, do so. Or, if you take the water from the tap, let it stay in the sun or air for a while. It will then get warmer.

Now I am afraid some children would forget to change the water. Put some water weeds into your tank. Plant them there so that they can grow. Water weeds from



rivers, do quite well. Water crow-foot is just right. The water plants do good work. They give off "good" air that the fish want. The fish give off "bad" air that the weeds want. So both weeds and fish get what they need.

Sand or gravel at the bottom of your tank will make your weeds grow. Tie a stone to the roots, and

drop in the plants. They will soon root there. Also, they will give food and shade for your fish.

On the sides of the tank, you will soon see some green. That is really tiny plants. The fish like these. When you have rubbish at home to get rid of, you give it to the dustman. Now in a tank, there are stale food, green slime, and so on. Water-snails and mussels are the dustmen of the tank.

Put in a few snails and a mussel or two. They will keep the tank clean. If your tank grows weeds and has dustmen, you can feel safe. There should be no need to change the water.

You must not overfeed your fish. It is hard to say just how

much food fish want. The weeds give some food. A pinch or two of oats, "ants' eggs", or one of the fish foods, every two or three days in summer, will do. Less than this is wanted in winter.

.A good thing is to watch your fish. If any food is left over, after an hour, the fish have had too much. Clear all this out, and next time give them less.

But goldfish get ill, now and then. A kind of white fluff or mildew comes on them. That is fungus. Take the sick fish out at once. Give it a salt bath for a few hours—one teaspoon of salt to a jam-jar of water. You can give it more salt, little by little, if it does not get better. About once a month,

put in the water a pinch or so of Epsom-salt. It helps to keep the fish fit.

If you do all this, your fish should live. At any rate, you have been kind, and they will be happy. No fish really likes a small bowl to live in. You would not like to live in one small room for ever, would you?

Games to Play

A. Draw the sort of tank goldfish should live in. Put in some fish.

B. Read this:

Fish — small bowl — strong light — stale water — dead.

Now write the story that you can make from these words.

Teachers' Notes on Word Formations

(To be explained simply to the pupil)

All words that are not correctly understood, and particularly those under B, should be used in their sentence-context to ensure understanding of their meaning prior to the use of the following.

Only those words considered desirable for the child's vocabulary are included under B. Unusual or difficult words have been excluded. Likewise, those that do not conform to the rule being illustrated are also excluded. This is to avoid any confusion that might arise. The exceptions, it is suggested, might be considered separately.

- A. Change *only* the first letter each time to form as many new words as possible, having the same sound. Go through the alphabet from A-Z. Write down each word.
- B.
 1. Say each word slowly and distinctly a few times, looking carefully all the while.
 2. Close eyes to try to "see" the word.
 3. Trace the word carefully on the desk with two fingers, as if writing it.
 4. If the words are put on the blackboard in the style of writing applicable to the school, the advantage of "tracing" (3) is more pronounced.

The index of A or B throughout the following exercises indicates the treatment applicable.

Exercises on Word Formations

1—Safety First

Word.

Directions.

- WAY. *A.* Way, bay, day, &c.
 B. Bray, clay, dray, gray, play, pray,
 slay, stay, sway, tray.
- NELL. *A.* Nell, bell, cell, &c.
 B. Shell, smell, spell, swell.
- BILL. *A.* Bill, fill, gill, &c.
 B. Chill, drill, frill, grill, quill, skill,
 spill, still, swill, trill, twill.
- TOOK. *A.* Took, book, cook, &c.
 B. Brook, crook, shook.
- RUN. *A.* Run, bun, fun, gun, &c.
 B. Shun, spun, stun.

NOW LEARN THESE:

child	school	man	cross	safe	side
children	scholar	woman	across	safety	outside

2—Your Dog

- PACK. *A.* Pack, back, hack, &c.
 B. Black, crack, quack, shack, slack,
 snack, smack, stack, track, whack.
- BED. *A.* Bed, fed, led, &c.
 B. Bled, bred, Fred, fled, shed, sped.
- SICK. *A.* Sick, Dick, lick, &c.
 B. Brick, chick, click, flick, quick,
 prick, stick, thick, trick.
- DOG. *A.* Dog, bog, cog, &c.
 B. Clog, flog, frog, grog, slog.
- MUST. *A.* Must, dust, gust, &c.
 B. Crust, trust.

NOW LEARN THESE:

other	self	hunt	indoors	health	friend
another	selves	hunter	outdoors	healthy	friendly

3—St. Swithun's Day

- RAIN. *A.* Rain, Cain, gain, &c.
 B. Brain, chain, drain, grain, slain,
 Spain, stain, train, twain.
- DEED. *A.* Deed, feed, heed, &c.
 B. Bleed, breed, creed, greed, speed,
 steed, tweed.

- KIND. *A.* Kind, bind, find, &c.
 B. Blind, grind.
- NOT. *A.* Not, cot, dot.
 B. Blot, clot, plot, Scot, shot, slot, spot,
 trot.
- HUNT. *A.* Hunt, punt.
 B. Blunt, brunt, grunt, shunt.

NOW LEARN THESE:

think	four	Chester	there	shot	stand
thought	forty	Winchester	where	shoot	stood

4—A Lump of Coal

- BAKE. *A.* Bake, cake, hake, &c.
 B. Brake (wagon), flake, drake, quakē,
 shake, slake, snake, stake. .
- HEAT. *A.* Heat, beat, feat, &c.
 B. Bleat, cheat, pleat, treat, wheat.
- FIRE. *A.* Fire, dire, hire, &c.
 B. Quire, shire, spire.
- COAL. *A.* Coal, foal, goal.
 B. Shoal.
- LUMP. *A.* Lump, bump, dump, &c.
 B. Clump, plump, slump, stump, thump,
 trump.

NOW LEARN THESE:

ten	build	boil	wire	good	stone
tenth	building	boiler	wireless	goodness	stonework

5 Some Houses of the World

- DATE. *A.* Date, fate, gate, &c.
B. Crate, grate, plate, skate, slate.
- FEW. *A.* Few, dew, new, &c.
B. Blew, brew, chew, crew, drew, flew,
grew, knew, slew, stew.
- DID. *A.* Did, bid, hid, &c.
B. Chid, grid, skid, slid.
- ROOM. *A.* Room, boom, doom, &c.
B. Bloom, broom, gloom, groom.
- BUILD. *A.* Build, guild.
B. —

• NOW LEARN THESE:

out	thing	cause	easy	near	far
without	nothing	because	easily	nearly	farther

6—What do you know about Elephants?

- TAME. *A.* Tame, dame, fame, &c.
B. Blame, flame, frame, shame.
- DEAL. *A.* Deal, heal, meal, &c.
B. Steal.
- FIGHT. *A.* Fight, light, might, &c.
B. Blight, bright, flight, fright, knight,
plight, slight.

ROB. *A.* Rob, cob, hob, &c.

B. Blob, knob, snob.

LUCK. *A.* Luck, buck, duck, &c.

B. Cluck, pluck, shuck, stuck, truck.

NOW LEARN THESE:

weigh	oft	luck	ear	circle	gentle
weight	often	lucky	hear	circus	gently

7—Friend or Foe?

FARM. *A.* Farm, harm.

B. Charm.

YEAR. *A.* Year, dear, fear, &c.

B. Clear, drear, smear, spear.

HIT. *A.* Hit, bit, fit, &c.

B. Chit, flit, grit, knit, skit, slit.

FORE. *A.* Fore, bore, core, &c.

B. Shore, snore, store, swore.

TUSK. *A.* Tusk, dusk, husk, &c.

B. —

NOW LEARN THESE:

fore	hind	fox	enemy	which	least
before	behind	foxes	enemies	white	beast

8--Girls who Dive for Pearls

- TALK. *A.* Talk, walk.
 B. Chalk, stalk.
- NECK. *A.* Neck, deck, peck.
 B. Check, fleck, speck.
- NICE. *A.* Nice, dice, lice, &c.
 B. Price, slice, spice, thrice, twice.
- ROUND. *A.* Round, bound, found, &c.
 B. Ground.
- TUB. *A.* Tub, cub, hub, &c.
 B. Chub, club, drub, grub, stub.

NOW LEARN THESE:

earl	hide	lace	vine	late	spea ^k
pearl	hidden	necklace	vinegar	later	spoke

9—A Christmas Tree

- HANG. *A.* Hang, bang, fang, &c.
 B. Clang, slang, twang.
- WEEK. *A.* Week, leek, meek, &c.
 B. Check, creek, Greek, sleek.
- PINE. *A.* Pine, fine, mine, &c.
 B. Brine, chine, shine, spine, swine,
 twine, whine.
- SOIL. *A.* Soil, boil, coil, &c.
 B. Broil, spoil.

FUEL. *A.* Fuel, duel.
 B. Cruel, gruel.

NOW LEARN THESE:

Christ usual ways ever cat candle
Christmas usually always however catkins handle

10—Finding the Way Home

RACE. *A.* Race, dace, face, &c.
 B. Brace, grace, place, space, trace.
KENT. *A.* Kent, bent, dent, &c.
 B. Spent, Trent.
TIME. *A.* Time, dime, lime, &c.
 B. Chime, crime, grime, prime, slime.
LONG. *A.* Long, gong, &c.
 B. Prong, thong, wrong.
DUE. *A.* Due, cue, hue, &c.
 B. Blue, clue, glue, queue, true.

NOW LEARN THESE:

round sun sand deed sense line
ground sunny sandy indeed nonsense bee-line

11—Bread from the Wind

MALE. *A.* Male, bale, gale, &c.
 B. Scale, shale, stale, whale.
NETTLE. *A.* Nettle, kettle, settle.
 B. —

- LINK. *A.* Link, pink, rink, &c.
 B. Blink, brink, chink, drink, slink,
 think, twink.
- DOWN. *A.* Down, gown, town.
 B. Brown, clown, crown, drown, frown.
- HUNG. *A.* Hung, lung, rung, &c.
 B. Clung, flung, slung, stung, swung,
 wrung.

— NOW LEARN THESE:

fresh	male	tar	corn	useful	would
freshen	female	nectar	acorn	useless	should

12—Goldfish that Die

- TANK. *A.* Tank, bank, hank, &c.
 B. Blank, clank, crank, drank, flank,
 frank, plank, prank, thank.
- BEAM. *A.* Beam, ream, seam.
 B. Bream, cream, dream, gleam, steam.
- RIVER. *A.* River, giver, liver.
 B. Shiver.
- MOON. *A.* Moon, boon, coon.
 B. Croon, spoon, swoon.

BUFF. *A.* Buff, cuff, huff, &c. •
 B. Bluff, fluff, gruff, stuff, snuff, scruff.

NOW LEARN THESE:

shade	less	dustman	happy	pinch	spoon
shady	unless	milkman	happier	pincer	teaspoon

